

### THE MONUMENT TO SUMNER.

Mr. Long, of Warren, has introduced a bill to appropriate fifty dollars for the erection of a monument to Gen. Jethro Sumner, of the Revolution, on the battlefield of Guilford Court House. We wish that an appropriation of a thousand dollars may be made to erect a fitting monument in commemoration of this brave and capable officer and patriot. But we submit that it would be out of place at the spot indicated.

Gen. Sumner early entered the North Carolina Continental line, and on the death of Gen. Nash at Germantown, he and Gen. Hogan were appointed Brigadiers of the North Carolina line. He was sent with a part of the North Carolina Line to the defense of South Carolina in 1779, and fought at Stono. Later when the balance of the Line joined Lincoln, he was with his troops in Charleston, but before the siege had well begun, because of ill health, returned to North Carolina. Thus he escaped the fate of Gen. Hogan who after the surrender of Lincoln to Charleston died in captivity. Virtually the entire North Carolina line was annihilated by Lincoln's surrender,—only a few officers, chiefly those who on the consolidation of the regiments had not been assigned to posts, remaining out of captivity.

Then was the day of North Carolina's distress. Her organized forces were gone and only the militia remained.

Continental officers sent South were given by Congress the right to command continental troops. They had no authority over State troops not turned over to Congress. This is the solution of much that is obscure in the history of that day. To illustrate it, when De Kalb was sent to North Carolina he was empowered to command only continental forces—and so Gates and Greene. Hence also after the North Carolina Line was captured, the remaining Line officers had no commands.

Such was the condition when Greene fought at Guilford Court house. Sumner and other officers were in the State, but were not employed. The special forces raised by the State—the militia called out—were under their own organizations; and so the greater skill of Sumner and others were not utilized. They sought commands but were refused. Indeed it appears that there was a considerable feeling of hostility against their employment. This may have arisen among the men from an apprehension that they would be too strict in discipline; among the higher officers, perhaps other causes might be assigned.

But this, apparently, accounts for the absence from Greene's army of the North Carolina Line officers then in the State.

After the battle of Guilford Court House, the North Carolina militia who broke, were, by the legislature, drafted into the North Carolina Line for punishment; and these drafts were put into camp under Gen. Sumner and his subordinates. They were organized at Salisbury, and formed the bulk of the North Carolina Line which did such heroic work under Sumner at Entaw Springs, and other engagements at the South.

A shaft should be erected to the memory of Sumner, but it could be erected on the Guilford Battleground only on the principle of *Lucus a non lucendo*. He was not there. Had he been there the day might have been a still more glorious one for the Continental army, and the heroes of Entaw Springs had not then showed their backs to the British grenadiers.